



BRINGING UP CHINU

KALPANA GUPTA

Illustrator

N. RAMACHANDRAN





Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

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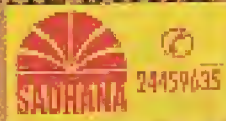
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The Tiny Orphan

In a small enclosure at the animal shelter, there was a tiny kitten, a few days old. It shivered uncontrollably in the piercing winter wind sweeping through the shelter. Somebody had left a litter of five newborn kittens at the shelter after their mother died in an accident. Four of the litter had already lost their battle with death. The

possibility of the survival of this last one also seemed dim.

A young girl, Ratna, came into the shelter as the veterinary doctor thought over what to do about the kitten. Ratna visited the animal shelter as a voluntary worker on her college holidays. The vet told about the kitten. Ratna wondered about its chances of survival if she took it home. The vet was not optimistic but thought her suggestion worth a try.

Ratna had a female dog at home, called Daisy. This was additional problem since, as you know, dogs and cats are natural enemies. It was very likely that Daisy would attack the kitten. Considering this, the vet said, "Well, if your dog attacks it, bring it back here" and with a silent prayer, he gave the kitten to Ratna after getting an adoption form filled.

After the kitten had settled down by her side, Ratna started the car to go back home. The noise terrified the kitten, which tried to burrow into the seat.

Halfway through the drive, Ratna was startled to find the kitten trying to climb up to her shoulder. Having recovered from the initial shock, it wanted to explore the surroundings. Ratna feared that it

might drop out of the car and get crushed under passing vehicles. She quickly closed the window.

The kitten kept mewling incessantly. Ratna tried to sooth it by talking to it as she drove. People in passing vehicles probably thought that she was crazy, as she appeared to be talking to herself. She received plenty of strange looks throughout the drive.

A Foster Parent Found

At home, Ratna's mother, Mahadevi, opened the door and was surprised to see a kitten in Ratna's hands.

"Oh dear!" Mahadevi exclaimed, "Why have you brought this tiny thing here?"

When Ratna explained the situation, Mahadevi allowed her to bring the kitten inside the home. A bigger question remained: will Ratna's pet-dog Daisy attack it and even kill it?

Ratna thought, "Let me try. Can't Daisy and the kitten be friends?" She called out, "Daisy! Daaaisyyyyyy!"

Daisy came running and drew up abruptly. She had got a whiff of cat-smell. She started sniffing around, her tail twitching. She seemed ready to attack the invisible 'enemy'.

Ratna was hiding the kitten in her hands. She spread a sheet on the floor. Then, she placed the kitten down gently, guarding against any possible attack by Daisy. Daisy rushed forward but stopped short near the tiny brown and black striped kitten. She could not believe that such a tiny creature had ventured out without its mother.



Daisy started sniffing the kitten with her wet nose touching it. The kitten was too small to understand anything. It tried to stand on its unsteady legs, expecting to be fed. It thought that Daisy was its mother.

Daisy now started licking the kitten, as if it was her puppy. She went on doing it instead of attacking it, as Ratna had feared. Now Ratna felt assured that Daisy would not harm it. When Ratna picked up the kitten, Daisy stood up, barking.

"That's enough licking, Daisy." Said Ratna, "The kitten is absolutely soaked." She placed the kitten in an open cardboard box lined with a soft old cotton sheet.

"Look how Daisy is checking the box with her nose. She is behaving as if she is the kitten's mother," commented Mahadevi.

Daisy sniffed around the box carefully. Then she sat near by, as if to guard her 'puppy'.

Feeding Time

The hungry kitten was mewling continuously. Ratna soaked some cotton in warm milk. But the kitten could not suck the milk from cotton. Also, the cotton got entangled in its tiny teeth. Ratna left the kitten

and Daisy alone for a while after this failed attempt to feed the kitten.

A little while later, Ratna tried to feed the kitten again. She saw an amazing sight.

"Mother! Come here for a minute," she called out.

Mahadevi came quickly, fearing some mishap. She found the kitten trying to suck milk from Daisy. Daisy had not milk but the kitten felt as if it had found its mother!

After sometime, Daisy got up and moved away. The kitten followed her on its unsteady legs. Seeing the kitten lagging far behind, Daisy lay down on the floor again. The kitten wobbled up to her and collapsed by her side, out of breath. Again it clung to Daisy and tried to get some milk from her.

"I don't think Daisy has any milk now," commented Ratna. "She had puppies eight years ago."

"Sucking gives the kitten comfort. It feels that it has found its lost mother," replied her mother.

But then, the kitten could not survive for much time without food. Ratna considered feeding the kitten with the milk in a dropper. The kitten did not like the dropper and closed its mouth tightly when Ratna tried this.

It however, felt reassured when Daisy came and stood near it. Then the kitten started taking in a few drops of milk. After several attempts, the kitten learned to take milk from the dropper. After the feed it lay beside Daisy, clinging to her tightly.

What's in a Name?

Everybody concerned had now accepted the kitten as a family member, including Daisy. Now it was time to give the kitten a name. Ratna asked for suggestions from her mother.

"There's a nice word in Tamil for something small — Cheena. Shall we call it Chinu?" proposed Ratna's mother.

"A lovely name," said Ratna, "let's call it Chinu."

As time passed, the kitten began to respond to this name. It came running when called. Everytime it responded, Ratna gave it a bit of cream to lick as a kind of reward!

"Look, how obedient the kitten has become," Ratna told her brother Ashish.

"That's no sign of obedience," he replied. "It came to you for cream. Be careful. It may bite off your finger along with the cream."

Ashish was Ratna's twin brother. He was not as fond of animals as Ratna.

Ashish continued, "This way, you will feed all the cream and cheese to your precious cat. There would be nothing for anybody else."

"Now children! Don't argue. Ashish, if you want, I will get a special quota of cream for you. Don't be envious!" Ratna's mother came into the room to stop the argument.



What about Daisy's Walks

"Daisy... come, let's go for a walk," one day called Ratna. She was surprised when she did not get any response.

Daisy loved to go out, especially in the winter sun. It was unusual that she did not come running. Ratna discovered Daisy sitting with Chinu by her side. Seeing Ratna, Daisy looked apologetically at her, as if to say that it could not leave Chinu alone.

"If you don't come now Daisy, I can't take you out at all today," said Ratna.

Daisy stood up reluctantly. Chinu was fast asleep. Daisy felt somewhat reassured that there was no hiccup in going for a short walk.

During walks, Daisy used to sniff around, stopping here and there. However, that day, she seemed to have lost interest in her surroundings. Even a frog crossing her path did not attract her attention. Normally, she would have chased it. Quite soon, Daisy started pulling at her leash to go back home. Ratna did not want to take her back without adequate exercise. But Daisy slipped her head through the collar and ran home where she had left Chinu.

Chinu was wide-awake and very scared; more so as Daisy had not come when he cried for her. Daisy settled him down by her side. Reassured by Daisy's presence, Chinu dosed off again.

After this incident Chinu followed Daisy like a shadow. Chinu was afraid that he would lose Daisy if he let her out of his sight.

Chinu had to be locked in a room in order to take Daisy for walks. He would mew plaintively the whole time that Daisy would be away, as if he firmly believed that if he stopped calling her, Daisy would



not be able to find her way back to him! After the walk, Daisy would run to the room where Chinu was and scratch the door, barking anxiously.

By the time Ratna came to open the door, a defeating duet would be in progress, with Chinu mewling and Daisy barking. As soon as Ratna opened the door, Daisy would rush in and make a careful inspection of her baby, making muffled noises in her throat.

Chinu submitted to this happily, glad that he had managed to call his mother back safely.

Swallowing Medicines – Ugh!

"Mother, Daisy and Chinu are both having loose motions," one day Ratna called out.

"Daisy has been licking the kitten," her mother reasoned. "It was filthy when you brought in home."

Both Daisy and Chinu had to be taken to the vet. The vet prescribed syrup for Chinu and tablets for Daisy. Getting back home, Ratna wanted to start their medicines immediately.

Ratna tried to make Daisy swallow her medicine but Daisy spat it out. Ratna tried again but could not succeed. After two tablets were reduced to paste and discarded in the struggle, both Ratna and Daisy were tired of each other. Finally, realising that Ratna would not give up, Daisy swallowed her medicine.

Chinu proved to be even more difficult. Even though his medicine was in syrup form, he did not like its taste. When Ratna attempted to give him the medicine, he yowled so loudly in protest that the whole household collected.

Daisy took one sniff of the dropper and started whining. She was very upset at Ratna's meanness in making her baby drink the revolting liquid.

"Daisy, don't push the dropper away. Chinu has to take the medicine," said Ratna.

Chinu shut his mouth tightly and would not allow the medicine to be given by a dropper. A lot of syrup got wasted. When Ratna was satisfied that Chinu had swallowed at least some of the syrup, she got up to clean the mess. Rivulets of syrup had flowed down from Chinu's mouth. He felt as sticky as a lump of jaggery left out in the sun.

Daisy sniffed Chinu. She didn't want to taste that repulsive stuff. But how could she leave her baby rolling in it? It had to be done. Daisy started licking Chinu to clean him up.

Just then Ratna came back with a wet napkin. As she cleaned Chinu with the napkin Daisy was relieved.

"My God, Chinu has bathed in syrup," said Ratna. "Is it going to be like this every time?" Ratna heaved a long sigh as she thought of the work involved in giving medicines for both Daisy and Chinu.

However, once she understood that the medicine had to be taken, Daisy gave no trouble. But it remained an ordeal to make Chinu take the syrup. Daisy was very glad of Ratna's help in cleaning Chinu up after each dose of medicine.

Walking on the Grass

So far, the tiny kitten had been kept inside the house. After the first fortnight, Ratna felt that Chinu should be made familiar with nature.

The house had a large garden and Daisy and Chinu were taken out for a walk. Ratna put Chinu down on the grass. Scared of the unaccustomed feel of grass, he ran helter-skelter to Daisy, who was standing on the floor of the verandah. The grass obviously felt very different to Chinu's feet, which, so far had known only cement floor.

Understanding his fear, Daisy went out on the grass and stood there firmly. Ratna heard frantic mewling and came running down from the porch. She saw Chinu at the edge of the lawn, mewling loudly, trying to call Daisy back from the lawn.

Daisy called him, urging him gently to come to her. Chinu stepped forward slowly, expecting the grass to bite him any moment. At the unfamiliar feel of the grass, he tried to overcome the urge to run back. He had to stand still for a few moments while he gathered the courage to proceed.

Finally he reached Daisy's side. Just then there was a ring at the gate. The milkman had come to deliver milk and eggs. At this time Daisy did not

want any outsider to come near. She started barking loudly to drive him away.

"What is the matter with Daisy? She is always so friendly, but today, she wants to attack me," exclaimed the milkman, astonishing at Daisy's furious barking.

Ratna's mother soothed the milkman's ruffled feelings and sent him away. Only then did Daisy settled down again with Chinu.



An Enemy Strikes

Chinu was now about five weeks old. Ratna kept it mostly indoors as it was too small to be left alone outside the house. There were some big cats in the locality, which could attack Chinu. And that is what happened one-day. Once Chinu got used to the outdoors, he wanted to play in the garden all day.

That day, Chinu was alone in the garden. A big

yellow tomcat strolled in from nowhere. When it saw Chinu, it did not like that a rival should come into what it considered its territory. It decided to drive away the kitten.

It puffed up to double its size. To the tiny kitten, it looked as big as an elephant. Uneasy and frightened, Chinu took up a defensive position, trying to hide between two flowerpots.

Suddenly, the tomcat made a lightening attack on Chinu. It made a deep gash on his forehead. Again, the claws shot out, this time tearing Chinu's ear.



Chinu tried to run back into the house, but the tomcat caught up with him in the verandah.

Ratna and Daisy, who were inside the house, heard curious noises of cats fighting just outside. They rushed out to investigate. To their horror, they saw a big cat attacking Chinu and Chinu trying to tackle it while standing on his hind legs.

Meanwhile, Daisy barked thunderously, chasing the tomcat, which vanished over the garden wall. Having driven off the intruder, Daisy came running back to her baby. Chinu had collapsed on the floor, badly hurt.

Ratna took Chinu inside the house and rang up the vet. As she tried to clean his wounds, Chinu fainted. Its very survival seemed to be in danger. The vet arrived soon. Daisy had to be locked up since she fiercely insisted on guarding Chinu from the vet.

The vet gave Chinu some injections to combat shock and applied an ointment on his wounds. He advised that the tiny kitten should be kept warm and fed with glucose water frequently.

"The next twelve hours are critical," said the vet. "If it can survive through this period, it will recover. I will visit again after two hours to see the kitten."

Recovery

When Daisy was released from captivity, she ran straight to Chinu. Finding his wounds covered with a strange paste, she sniffed it suspiciously for a long time. Doubtful about it, she started to clean up the paste.

"Daisy, what are you doing? Stop licking the medicine," said Ratna, drawing Daisy away. Annoyed, Daisy sat down close to Chinu, with her back towards Ratna.

Ratna's mother brought a hot water bottle. She wrapped Chinu in an old cardigan and lay him down on the bottle to keep him warm. Ratna fed him a few drops of glucose water through a dropper. The limp kitten had now energy to resist anything. He drifted into a restless, pain-racked doze. Daisy sat close to him, wondering what was happening.

On the vet's next visit, Daisy had to be locked up again in the adjoining room. The vet gave Chinu some more injections. As soon as Daisy was released she darted back to Chinu. Chinu was a little more active, moving his legs, as the injections took effect. Daisy went to the vet and nuzzled his hand, as if apologizing for her earlier behaviour. Then she went

back to Chinu and curled herself around him to give more warmth.

Later, in the middle of the night, Ratna checked on the pair. Daisy looked up to Ratna and wagged her tail.

"Good! That means Chinu is better," thought Ratna as she bent to look at the sleeping kitten.

In the morning Chinu had opened his eyes, but did not attempt to move. Daisy welcomed the vet with a wagging tail on his next visit. She now recognised him as a friend.

Slowly, over the next few days, Chinu became better. He hated the vet, who stuck needles into him whenever he came. When the vet arrived on the fifth day, Chinu hid in an almirah and came out only after the vet had gone.

Now Chinu had recovered completely but he was afraid of going out into the garden. Over the next few weeks he kept close to Daisy.

As the memory of the incident receded, Chinu regained his love for the outdoors. He had now become more alert when outside the house.

Trees are for Climbing

After adopting Chinu, Daisy was happier and more contented. All traces of her long-standing skin problem disappeared and her coat became thick and glossy.

Chinu was becoming increasingly active and hence often landed into difficult situations. There was a big Champa tree in the front garden. Some of its branches almost reached the terrace. Chinu loved to scratch its thick trunk to sharpen his claws.

Soon, Chinu wanted to climb the tree. One Sunday afternoon, he was at the base of the Champa tree, gazing up eagerly. He tried to climb up, but slipped down after going up a few inches.



He jumped up again and again, but slithered down every time. Disheartened, he gave up and went to sleep in the sunny lawn.

A squirrel came squeaking near Chinu, as if teasing him. Annoyed, he ran after it at full speed. The squirrel ran up the Champatree.

Still running at full speed, Chinu climbed almost halfway up the tree before he realized where he was. He stopped suddenly and meowed happily. The squirrel now ran down the tree and went across the lawn.

Chinu confidently tried to follow it. But as soon as he looked down at the ground so far away, he was overcome with fear. As you know, it is easier to climb up than to climb down. When he looked up, the branches overhead were more reassuring. So, he climbed up a little, relieved that he was moving in some direction, at least.

So, he kept climbing up. Thus he reached the topmost branches. As he stepped on one of these, it creaked ominously. Chinu hurriedly stepped back, meowing.

Woken up by his meows, Daisy came running to the base of the tree. Ratna found Daisy scratching the

trunk of the Champa tree, whining. On gazing up intently, she saw Chinu near the top of the tree. No amount of encouragement was able to induce Chinu to come down.



Rescue

Daisy was feeling quite anxious. Her baby was in a place, which she was unable to reach. She scratched vigorously at the tree trunk as if trying to bring the tree down. This, of course, was no use.

Chinu was getting hysterical. He started yowling, as loudly as he could, trying to make Daisy climb the tree up to him.

Ratna saw that one of the topmost branches stretched to the terrace of the house. She went to the terrace by the stairs and stood near the branch. Then she called Chinu, trying to get him onto the terrace.

Chinu walked slowly along the branch, led on by Ratna's encouraging calls. But as he neared the



terrace, the thin wood creaked and broke. Chinu leaped for dear life and caught on to another branch. So, there was the branch lying on the ground while Chinu hung from another branch by his forefeet.

Ratna leaned down and, by stretching her hand, was able to reach the hanging kitten. She picked him up and took him down to the garden.

Daisy had been scratching at the base of the tree without a break. She looked around in disbelief as Chinu's voice came from behind her. Seeing Chinu safe in Ratna's arms, she started running around them in circles with happiness.

Once the immediate reaction was over, Daisy sat Chinu down near her and examined him thoroughly, making sure that he was unhurt.

A Cozy Place to Sleep

It was milk time for Chinu and he was nowhere to be found. Now he was big enough to lap up milk from a plate, but he disliked milk. Maybe it reminded him of the dropper.

He often hid himself during milk time. So when Ratna could not find Chinu, she did not worry. However, when Chinu did not appear even after two hours, Ratna and her mother started searching for

him. But he could not be found either inside the house or in the garden.

Ratna's mother developed a backache due to the frequent bending to search under beds, sofas, almirah, etc. She decided to lie down for a short while to give herself a rest.

As she unfolded the quilt on her bed, Chinu fell out of the folds of the quilt. He had burrowed deep inside the quilt and gone to sleep. Woken up suddenly, Chinu seemed confused. But, almost instantly, he became wide-awake and alert. He jumped down and disappeared under the bed.

"Ratna, come! I've found Chinu," called her mother and Ratna came running.

Mahadevi pointed under the bed. Ratna bent down and saw Chinu trying to hide in a corner. Chinu felt scared about the outcome of sleeping in forbidden area.

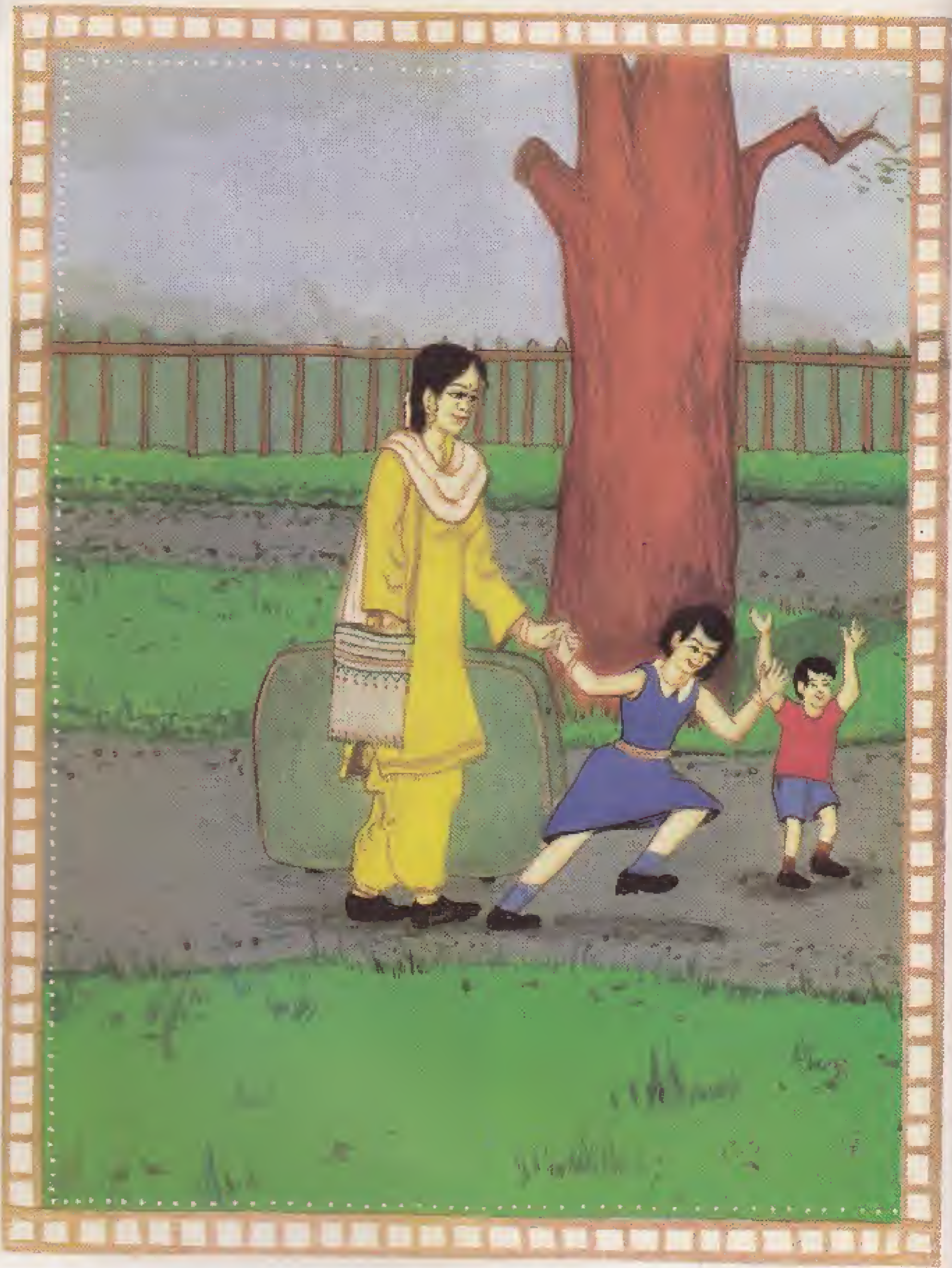
Ratna was so relieved at finding Chinu, that the scolding she gave to him was only a formality. Chinu thanked his stars as he escaped from there. However, he was not so lucky with Daisy. She gave him a spanking, by catching him by the scruff of his neck and shaking him like a rat.

When he was able to stand after the spanking,



Chinu said sorry to Daisy only to be snubbed. With his tiny tongue, Chinu started licking Daisy's coat. Watching him trying to clean her coat, Daisy relented.

So, truce was reached and peace restored.



New Friends

Gunjan, Ratna's elder sister, was coming with her two children. Shikha, her seven-year-old daughter and son Rishi, who was four years old.

It was the children's summer vacation. They were very fond of Daisy and regarded her more as a relative than a pet.

Ratna and her father had gone to the railway station to pick them up. As Ratna's father stopped the car in front of the house, Shikha and Rishi threw open the car-door and hopped out. Daisy was already at the gate, trying to jump over the bars to reach out to them.

The children did not notice Chinu in the excitement of their reception of Daisy, who was jumping in high spirits. Chinu withdrew into the bushes, alarmed by their boisterous behaviour.

Suddenly, Gunjan noticed the small brown and black striped kitten in the bushes nearby. She exclaimed, "Hey, look at the kitten! If Daisy sees it, she will attack." Shikha and Rishi caught hold of Daisy firmly to restrain her.

"That is Daisy's baby!" said Ratna, laughing.

"Don't joke, please! How can a kitten be Daisy's baby?" exclaimed Shikha, in disbelief. In reply, Ratna made her leave Daisy, who went to Chinu.

With Daisy propelling him with her nose, Chinu

reluctantly stepped forward. Daisy pushed him towards Gunjan, showing him off. Gunjan gently picked Chinu up, who squeezed his eyes shut in fear.

"Wow! This is like being in fairytale. Daisy, you do deserve an award!" said Gunjan.

Once Chinu realized that these people were Daisy's friends, he relaxed in their company, capering around all of them. He drew the two children to join him in a game of "catch-catch."

The children sat down only after they had become too tired to move. And then, the large jug of iced lemonade was a very welcome drink.

A Dressing Down

The children did not want to go out of the house anywhere that summer. Playing with Daisy and Chinu brought much more enjoyment than any outing could give.

"Ow!" squealed Rishi. While playing catch-catch together, Chinu had nipped Rishi's finger in excitement.

Immediately, Daisy appeared. She caught Chinu and took him off to the next room. There, holding him by the scruff of his neck, she proceeded to shake him like a rat. After this, it appeared as if she was giving him a lecture on the do's and don'ts of good manners.

Then they both turned to go back to the family

only to encounter them at the door. They were closely watching the nose-to-nose exchange between Daisy and Chinu.

"I wish we could understand their language," Gunjan said wistfully.

"Wow! Seems like he is saying sorry for his bite," said Rishi, petting Chinu lovingly as Chinu rolled on his feet.

Chinu was more careful subsequently but few nips slipped out nonetheless. These were gentle and the children didn't mind them.

Picnic without Chinu

There was excitement in the house. Ratna's father Laxman had planned a picnic near the Badal lake, about forty kilometres from their house. Daisy was to be taken for the picnic but not Chinu.

When everything had been packed away in the car, Gunjan called Daisy. Daisy and Chinu came running. Ratna picked Chinu up and left him inside the house near his bowl of milk. Then she locked the main door.

Everyone had settled down in the car except Daisy, who was waiting for Chinu to appear. Chinu's meows sounded muffled behind the closed door.

Ratna called Daisy to climb into the car. In answer, Daisy approached the door and whined, asking for Chinu to be let out.

Since Daisy was not moving away from the door, Ratna got down from the car to bring her. Daisy planted her feet firmly on the ground with a mulish look. Ratna tugged at her collar gently to make her move. Immediately, Daisy set her ears back and pulled away from Ratna.

Ratna asked her father, "Should we leave both of them behind?"

"The kids won't be happy without Daisy and Daisy won't be happy without Chinu. Instead of going so far, let's have the picnic in the nearby park."

Ratna's father opened the door of the house to let Chinu out while her mother called Daisy and Chinu to the car. Both came running. Daisy jumped in easily, but Chinu could not manage it and fell back on the road. Gunjan picked him up and put him inside the car.

In the park, there were vast lawns. The two pets and the children scampered over the grass, racing after each other.

After half an hour of playing, all got tired out. Daisy sprawled on the grass, her tongue hanging out. Chinu climbed on her back, using it as a mattress. The children lay down on the cooler grass under the trees.

Everybody enjoyed the picnic lunch. Even Chinu happily drank up the milk that was brought for him. After lunch, it was time for some more catching games. It had become very hot by then.

"I want an ice-cream to cool down," said Shikha. All supported this demand. Everything was cleared up and carried back to the car. This time, Chinu took careful aim and jumped into the car in his first try itself.

"We will go to the ice-cream parlour near the car park," said Ratna's mother.

Lost and Found

At the ice cream parlour it took time for them to choose from the wide choice flavours. One scoop of vanilla ice cream was placed in a paper plate for Daisy. Daisy loved ice cream. Chinu looked at her gobbling up the ice cream and was tempted to taste it.

Everyone finished their ice creams and climbed into the car. Chinu was still licking the plate, trying to get a tiny bit of ice cream sticking in one corner.

Rishi picked Chinu up and strolled to the car. Suddenly, a bulldog, out on a walk with its master, rushed towards Chinu. With a terrified mewo, the kitten jumped down from Rishi's hands. The bulldog chased him, pulling its master behind it. Rishi ran after the trio. After a spellbound second, everyone tumbled out of the car.

Eventually, the dog's owner managed to halt his pet's headlong run. He quickly led it away from the trouble spot.

Chinu seemed to have vanished into thin air. Daisy ran in circles, giving vent to her worry in short barks and whines. Then she started searching the bushes lining the car park as the others were doing.

About halfway in her search, Daisy got a strong scent of Chinu. She nosed deeper into the bush. The thorns stung her and her nose started bleeding but she ignored the pain. At the center of the bush, Chinu was cowering.

After a lot of coaxing, Chinu came out of hiding. As Chinu stepped out of his hideout he was given a thorough check up by Daisy. She calmed down after making sure that he escaped unhurt.

Then Ratna's mother gathered Chinu in her arms. Everybody crowded around, petting him.



Back home, Ratna told Daisy, "I just shudder to think of that huge dog catching Chinu. That dog was much bigger than you. From now on, Chinu should stay back at home. It's much safer for him."

After that Chinu did not insist on going out with everybody. He was fond of car rides. Ratna's father took care of this by taking him out for short rides in the car.

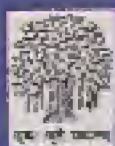
So, if you see a white dog and a brown striped kitten playing together in their house, you could be looking at Daisy and Chinu.



Shri Ramachandran, N. (b. 1975), *Tanjore Painter*

The Artist: Shri Ramachandran has a postgraduate degree in Fine Arts. Though not formally trained in Tanjore painting, he learnt the art from a friend through sheer dint of his labour. Having researched on the various murals of India, it has become his passion to study various forms of traditional modes of painting.

The Art: Tanjore paintings are an elaborate affair as wooden planks are made and covered with wet cotton cloth to make a canvas for the painting. Like most classical styles in South India the subject matter is related to gods and goddesses. Mythological stories are also narrated through these paintings. The added attraction of these paintings come from the use of gemstones, glass, and gold leaf which give them a heavily ornamented appearance.



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